Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

IWB…

1. Does a character move to another country during a war?
2. Is the year defined by a lunar calendar? (1)
3. Does New Year’s Day also double as everyone’s birthday? (2)
4. Is a character named after the Golden River? (6)
5. Does a character love a papaya tree more than anything, except being near her mother? (6-7)
6. Does a family have a portrait and an altar to prepare for the return of a loved one, who has been missing for 9 years? (12-13)
7. Does a character refuse to eat an egg, in hopes that it will become a chick? (16)
8. Does a teacher and students discuss Communists and bombs in class? (18)
9. Is a school so overcrowded that students must attend in shifts? (19)
10. Does a character save a little bit of grocery money to buy sugary fried dough? (20)
11. Is a presidential palace bombed by a spy? (24)
12. Does a character list birthday wishes that include losing chubby cheeks, having a sister instead of brothers, and Father appearing in the doorway? (30-31)
13. Does a president host a ceremony to comfort war wives? (32)
14. Does a family not have enough rice to last till payday? (37)
15. Does a character desperately want to solve a math riddle to the sweet potato plant sprouting in the window? (39)
16. Does a character pinch the girls sitting next to her twice? (38-39)
17. Does a character call a family meeting to discuss leaving home? (44)
18. Does a character’s brother adore Bruce Lee? (5, 45)
19. Do “bombs explode like thunder, slashes lighten the sky, and gunfire falls like rain?” (48)
20. Does a character stitch bags to be used on a long trip? (52)
21. Does a character cherish a homemade doll that has been nibbled on by mice? (55)
22. Does a family leave behind glasses, report cards, vines, a belt, glass jars, two hooks and photographs? (58)
23. Do characters fight a crowd to board a boat? (61-62)
24. Does a ship threaten to sink under the weight of too many passengers? (63)
25. Does a pilot jump into water, letting his helicopter plunge into the water? (68)
26. Does a character begin English lessons on a boat? (79)
27. Do characters lower the official flag of a country that no longer exists? (85)
28. Do escapees travel by river, but miss the rescue ships? (88)
29. Does the sight of an American flag cause characters to “clap and clap?” (91-92)
30. Does a character pluck a fuzzy golden hair from someone’s arm? (94-95)
31. Does one character become a translator for all and another becomes head chef? (96)
32. Do movies with Clint Eastwood, John Wayne, and Disney characters play outdoors on a white sheet? (98-99)
33. Does everything taste better with magic fish sauce, increasing many people’s appetites? (100-101)
34. Do families choose between moving to France, Canada, and the United States? (105)
35. Do families wait in camps to be sponsored and given homes? (107-108)
36. Is a character “tall and pig-bellied,…” with a black cowboy hat, and tan cowboy boots? (111)
37. Does the sight of a wife cause a family to repack what they have just unpacked? (115)
38. Does learning English become the most important goal? (117)
39. Is chicken a disgusting food that is difficult to swallow? (120)
40. Does a family move into a 2 bedroom house with a washing machine, a stove, a shower, and tacky, mismatched furniture? (125-126)
41. Does a character why pluralizing monkey adds an “s” but pluralizing deer doesn’t? (128)
42. Does a character not want to read a baby book about Jane and a dog named Spot? (130)
43. Do characters disagree on whether a horse says “neigh” or “hee?” (134)
44. Does a character’s name frequently cause others to laugh? (140)
45. Is a character the only student with straight black hair and olive skin? (142)
46. Does a character’s brother offer to teach self-defense against the kids at school? (153)
47. Does a character get a ride to and from school on bicycle handlebars? (154)
48. Does a character feel dumb even though she knows fractions and how to purify water? (158)
49. Does a character hide in the bathroom to avoid lunch and outside time? (160)
50. Does a house get egged and trees get toilet-paper rolled and a window broken? (163)
51. Does a neighbor offer to tutor a family? (165)
52. Does a family visit church so that the neighbors will like them? (169)
53. Does a teacher pack lunch for a student? (183)
54. Is October 4th labeled “Most Relieved Day?” (185)
55. Does braided straight hair result in more straight hair? (190)
56. Would a character sometimes choose wartime at home over peacetime in another country? (195)
57. Does a character scream into a hole by a willow tree? (209)
58. Does a character share all the bad things she’s done and that have happened with her mother? (213-214)
59. Does a character ask to have a butcher grind the pork, and then screams “NOW” when the butcher doesn’t want to? (217-218)
60. Does a character yell playground insults at a bully? (219-220)
61. Do neighbors bring over early Christmas presents, not getting anything in return? (230)
62. Does a character throw away dried papaya because it isn’t the real fresh fruit? (232)
63. Does a character receive a beautiful doll with long black hair? (239)
64. Does a character wear a new coat and a hand-me down dress, that’s really flannel? (243)
65. Does a character rip a blue flower off of a dress? (245)
66. Is a tin of flower seeds the perfect gift for a friend? (246)
67. Does a lost ring mean lost hope and a sign? (248)
68. Does a character disagree that she loves to argue? (256)
69. Does a parent always want an engineer, a doctor, a poet and a lawyer? (256)
70. Is a house blessed at midnight? (258)
71. Is it expected at New Year, that characters smile until it hurts for the first three days? (258)
72. Do characters get baptized and everyone shouts halleluiah? (170)
73. Do verbs switch all over just because? (135)
74. Does a cowboy not have a horse? (134)
75. Is a character followed home by a pink boy and two loud friends? (147)
76. Is a “c” used instead of “k,” a “ y” is used instead of “e,” and s changes the spelling of words like knife? (177)
77. A bully have to apologize in the principal’s office? (203)
78. Do students chant Buddha and a character chants Jesus? (219)
79. Does a family finally let a missing loved one go? (250)